

# Hope Academy of West Michigan Board of Directors Approved Regular Meeting Minutes

**Mission:** *Hope Academy of West Michigan is a safe place for students to grow and achieve academic success.*

**Date:** February 24, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 a.m.

**Place:** Hope Academy of West Michigan  
240 Brown St SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** *Barth Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:01 a.m.*
  - A. **Board Members Present.** Barth Roberts, Dr. Bernard Ayoola, Mark Brouwer and Michelle Eddie.
  - B. **Board Members Absent (with prior notice).** Todd Medendorp.
  - C. **Others Present.** Dr. Heidi Cate, Superintendent; Leslie Cummings, Executive Director Business Office; Dr. Arthur Garner, School Principal; Joshua Barnhart, Assistant Principal; Dr. Michele Siderman, FSU Representative.
- II. **Public Comment\* (limited to agenda items only).** *None.*
- III. **Approval of Agenda.** *A motion to approve the agenda was made by Michelle Eddie and supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously.*
- IV. **Consent Calendar.** *Approval of the January 27, 2025 Proposed Regular Meeting and Special Meeting Minutes. A motion to approve the January 27, 2025 Proposed Regular Meeting and Special Meeting Minutes was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola and supported by Michelle Eddie. The motion passed unanimously.*
- V. **Old Business.** *None.*
- VI. **New Business.**
  - A. **Student Achievement.** *Joshua Barnhart reviewed the handout, including NWEA winter scores and Whole Child behavior information. He also provided a Family Engagement update.*
  - B. **AMP Progress Update.** *Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the AMP plan and discussed LETRS training along with use of Lexia and IXL. Dr. Arthur Garner provided an update on the high school program.*
  - C. **FSU-CSO Updates &/or Report—Dr. Michele Siderman.** *Dr. Michele Siderman shared that Ferris State University is providing automatic enrollment for any graduating senior from a chartered school with a 2.35 or better GPA. Students will receive an automatic \$3,500/year scholarship. She discussed the new Board and ESP evaluation tools offered by FSU. She reviewed her school safety visit performed on 1/27/2025.*

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- D. Reports. *Handouts provided prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board.*
1. School Monthly Summary.
  2. Parent/Community Partners Update.
  3. DAN Updates.
- E. Tabled Strategic Planning Meeting Agenda Items.
1. Mission, Vision, Values. *Tabled.*
  2. Review Feedback from FSU-CSO Mid-contract Review. *Tabled.*
  3. Review Historical Data from Previous 3 Years.
    - a. Demographics. *Josh Barnhart reviewed demographic data.*
    - b. Perception. *Josh Barnhart reviewed the key items identified in the parent, student and staff survey.*
    - c. Student Achievement. *Dr. Arthur Garner reviewed academic data.*
    - d. Set Annual Targets. *Tabled.*
    - e. Frequency and Format of Reporting to the Board. *Tabled.*
  4. Goals for 2025-2026 School Year.
    - a. AMP Plan. *Tabled.*
    - b. Enrollment Numbers, Staffing, and Budget. *Tabled.*
  5. Follow Up Work on Galapagos Marketing.
    - a. Student/Parent Survey Information. *See item 3 b above.*
    - b. Summary of Galapagos Main Takeaways. *The Board requested that IES reach out to Galapagos for a quote to assist with branding and increasing student enrollment.*
- F. Board Development Credits/Reports (as applicable). *None.*
- G. Integrity Educational Services Reports.
- a. Financial Reports.
    - a. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the January financial reports with the Board. A motion to approve the January check register was made by Michelle Eddie and supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously.*

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*Leslie highlighted an opportunity to replace the school's network infrastructure using Erate Type 2 funds. The Board supported this opportunity.*

- b. Review 2025-26 ESP Agreement. Leslie Cummings shared that the Ferris CSO released a number of updates last week that need to be included in future ESP agreements. The Board approved sending the revised ESP agreement to Thrun for review.*
  - c. Discuss School Lunch Provider for 2025-26. Leslie Cummings shared that the breakfast/lunch program operated by GRPS has been running in a deficit for the past two school years. Contacts to other potential providers were made in February, but the program is not large enough. The Board suggested investigating cold breakfasts and using either volunteers or the school's custodial staff to reduce the personnel costs from GRPS.*
- 2. Human Resources Reports. Leslie Cummings reported that an offer has been accepted for a new high school science teacher. The Board was invited to participate in the March 5<sup>th</sup> Popcorn Praise staff event.*

**VII. Correspondence.** *The Board received the QPR notice from FSU CSO as well as confirmation of Dr. Bernard Ayoola and Michelle Eddie being reappointed to the Board.*

**VIII. Extended Public Comment\* (limited to non-agenda items only).** *None.*

**IX. Reconfirmation of Next Regular Meeting Date.**

March 24, 2025 at 7:00 a.m.  
Hope Academy of West Michigan  
240 Brown Street SE  
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**X. Adjournment.** *A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola and supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:36 a.m.*

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*Individuals wishing to address the Board of Directors under Items II and IX above are requested to sign in with the Board Secretary prior to the start of the meeting. Individual comments are limited to no more than three (3) minutes each and a total time allowance not to exceed thirty (30) minutes, unless extended by a vote of the Board. The Board will not verbally respond to public comments but may follow up in the most appropriate and time-effective manner.*

*Complaints or concerns regarding Board members or school employees associated with the Academy shall first be addressed in writing and delivered to the Board President at least five (5) days prior to the Board meeting or such complaints or concerns shall not be heard by the Board. The Board will not verbally respond to public comments but may follow up in the most appropriate and time-effective manner. (Source: Board Policy 0167.3)*

*Proposed minutes of this meeting will be available for public inspection at the Hope Academy of West Michigan/Integrity Educational Services Central office at 3300 36th Street, SE Grand Rapids, MI 49512, eight (8) business days after the meeting. Approved minutes are available within five (5) business days after the meeting at which they are approved (in accordance with Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267.)*

Submitted by:



Leslie Cummings  
Filling in for the Recording Secretary

Date: 2/24/2025

Approved by:



Bernard Ayoola  
Board Secretary

Date: 03-24-25